

# Food environments in African cities

The concept of food environments offer planners, technicians and policy makers a lens through which to consider the urban food system from the perspective of the city's residents as they make their daily decisions about what to eat, where to buy food, when to eat it, who to eat with, and so on. **Think of food environments as the consumer interface of the broader food system.** This lens can help us **think beyond an agriculturally focused framing of urban hunger and nutrition and bring in a wider range of important stakeholders into urban food planning and governance processes.**



AfriFOODlinks



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## How can local governments take action?

### Local enterprises and informal trade, big supermarkets and fast food

- Ensure that **traditional markets and small businesses** are **valued and supported**
- Create **local by-laws** that **support informal traders** to remain part of the retail environment
- **Lobby national government** for **taxes** on unhealthy ultra processed foods

### Energy access and infrastructure

- Ensure **access to affordable energy**
- Maintain and improve **infrastructure at produce markets** (refrigeration and water)

### Creating safe and hygienic spaces

- Ensure provision of **clean water** at strategic points
- Offer **food safety training** to traders and schools
- Support food vendors with creative ways to **enhance food safety**
- Treat **urban waste and sewerage problems** as a serious food environment risk

### Advertising and processed foods

- Place **advertising restrictions** around key products known to be **detrimental to health**
- Limit or **ban food advertising targeting children**, or around schools
- Establish **maternal and infant health support** programmes
- Work to mainstream **nutrition programmes in creches** and schools
- Consider how zoning and spatial development plans can be used to **limit availability of unhealthy foods**

### Spaces of care and solidarity

- Allocate resources and funding to **support neighbourhood initiatives, community kitchens and social welfare programs**
- Collaborate with **community organisations** to **enhance support networks**
- Provide **regulatory support and incentives** for businesses involved in food-related social welfare activities
- Integrate **spaces of care and solidarity** with **other social services**

